DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 444 440 HE 033 200

AUTHOR Manning, Kathleen
TITLE Rituals, Ceremonies, and Cultural Meaning in Higher Education. Critical Studies in Education and Culture Series.
ISBN ISBN-0-89789-504-5
ISSN ISSN-1064-8615
PUB DATE 2000-05-00
NOTE 169p.; Published by Bergin & Garvey.
AVAILABLE FROM Greenwood Publishing Group, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881 ($49.95); Tel: 203-226-3571 or 800-225-5800 (toll-free); e-mail: bookinfo@greenwood.com; Web site: http://www.greenwood.com.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Alumni; Anthropology; Awards; College Presidents; Constructivism (Learning); Cultural Activities; Educational Research; Folk Culture; Graduation; Higher Education; Inquiry; Metaphors; Nonformal Education; Participant Observation; *School Culture; *Social Science Research
IDENTIFIERS *Ceremonies; Convocations; Metacommunication; Rites of Passage; *Rituals

ABSTRACT

This book examines the commonplace rituals and ceremonies that play a central role in college and university culture; it examines how people build, learn, and transform culture in ways that create meaning and give definition to existence. Qualitative research on four campuses over 10 years investigated: why colleges persist with rituals and ceremonies; what meaning community members derive from rituals; how rituals evolve, endure, and recreate themselves; and what drives people to become emotionally linked with rituals. The study examined the role rituals play as students, administrators, and faculty make sense of college; what occurs during rituals; overt and covert meanings conveyed during rituals; participant interpretations; how conveyed messages about colleges are interpreted by students, alumni, and administrators; and how rituals perpetuate traditional college purposes, goals, and values. The 15 chapters include: (1) "The Rituals of Higher Education"; (2) "Presidential Inauguration"; (3) "Rites of Passage: Structuralism"; (4) "Charter Day"; (5) "Secular Ceremony: Action, Order, and Evocation"; (6) "Second Semester Convocation"; (7) "Structure, Communitas, and Liminality"; (8) Baccalaureate"; (9) "Cultural Performances: Rehearsals and Informality"; (10) "Junior Show"; (11); "Messages, Meanings, and Root Paradigms"; (12) "Mary Lyon's Birthday Celebration"; (13) "Old Traditions in New Places: The Oxymoron of 'New' Rituals"; (14) "Alumnae Parade and Laurel Chain"; and (15) "Constructivist Inquiry and Higher Education Rituals." (Contains 135 references.) (SM)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original document.

THIS
DOCUMENT
NOT
AVAILABLE
FROM

EDRS